

CORYNESPORA LEAF SPOT OF LIGUSTRUM SINENSE

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*Ligustrum sinense* Lour, is a hardy, semideciduous shrub used as an accent or foundation plant around the home. Variegated and nonvariegated forms of this species exist, with the variegated much more popular (3).

A leaf spot disease caused by *Corynespora cassiicola* (Berk. & Curt) Wei has become increasingly serious on both forms of *L. sinense* in Florida. Under warm, moist conditions, the disease can lead to heavy defoliation. Other important hosts of *C. cassiicola* in Florida are cucumber (1), tomato (2), and hydrangea (4).

**SYMPTOMS.** On variegated *L. sinense*, symptoms begin as tiny, reddish, circular leaf spots, which enlarge to form light brown lesions with purple margins (fig. 1A). On the nonvariegated form, leaf spots are light brown with dark brown margins and prominent yellow halos (fig. 1B). The lesions often coalesce, followed by leaf abscission.

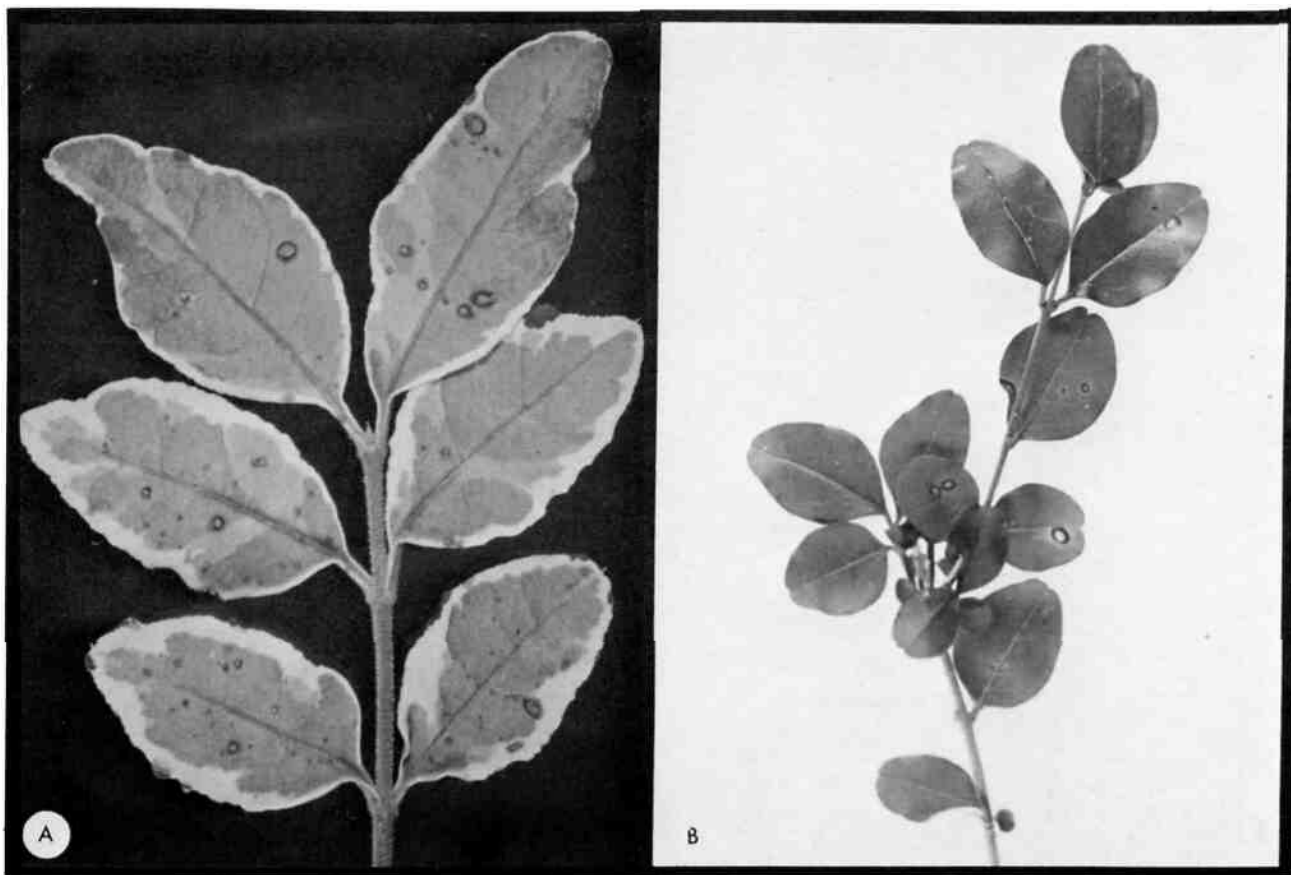


Fig. 1. *Corynespora cassiicola* on *Ligustrum sinense*: A) variegated *L. sinense* showing light brown lesions with purple margins; B) nonvariegated *L. sinense* showing light brown spots with dark brown margin and prominent yellow halo.

CONTROL. Protective sprays of Benlate, Daconil, Dithane M-45, and Thiabendazole have given excellent disease control. Proper spacing to give good aeration also helps to decrease the damage caused by this disease.

#### Literature Cited

1. Blasquez, C. H. 1967. Corynespora leaf spot of cucumber. Proc. Fla. State Hort. Soc. 80:177-182.
2. Blasquez, C. H. 1972. Target spot of tomato. Plant Dis. Reprtr. 56:243-245.
3. Miller, J. W., and S. A. Alfieri, Jr. 1974. Leaf spot of Ligustrum sinense caused by Corynespora cassiicola and its control. Phytopathology 64:255-256.
4. Sobers, E. K. 1966. A leaf spot disease of azalea and hydrangea caused by Corynespora cassiicola. Phytopathology 56:455-457.